AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded union, comprising:

first and second subcomponents that are inter-connected by a nut, the first and second subcomponents having respective mating ends that are forced together and abut when securely interconnected by the nut, the first subcomponent including a female socket that receives a cylindrical male pin of the ~~and~~ second subcomponent, the first and second subcomponents having complementary ring gasket grooves ~~therein~~ in the mating ends; and

a metal ring gasket having beveled corners and an octagonal cross-section received in the complementary ring gasket grooves, the metal ring gasket providing a high-pressure energized seal between the mating ends of the first and second subcomponents when securely interconnected by the nut.

2. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 1 wherein the nut is a wing nut that is hammer-torqued.

3. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 1 wherein the nut is a spanner nut that is torqued using a wrench.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded union for providing a high-pressure, fluid-tight, metal-to-metal seal in a fluid conduit, comprising:

a first subcomponent comprising a generally annular body that includes a female socket inside a first mating end with pin threads;

a threaded nut having an annular top wall and box threads for engaging the pin threads on the mating end of the first subcomponent;

a second subcomponent comprising a generally annular body that includes a male pin that extends from a second mating end ~~with~~ and a radial flange against which the annular top wall of the threaded nut abuts so that the first and second mating ends are forced together and abut when the male pin is received in the female socket and the box threads of the threaded nut engage the pin threads of the first subcomponent; and

a metal ring gasket having beveled corners and an octagonal cross-section that is compressed between the first subcomponent and the second subcomponent to form a pressure energized, high-pressure, fluid-tight, metal-to-metal seal between the first subcomponent and the second subcomponent when the mating ends abut.

5. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 4 wherein the metal ring gasket is compressed between the mating ends of the first and second subcomponents.

6. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 5 wherein the metal ring gasket is seated in an annular groove in the mating end of the first subcomponent.

7. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 6 wherein the annular groove has beveled sides.

8. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 7 wherein the annular groove is beveled to an angle of 20 to 26 degrees from the vertical.

9. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 8 wherein the annular groove is beveled to an angle of 23 degrees from the vertical, plus or minus 1 degree.

10. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 9 wherein the second subcomponent has a beveled annular groove having a bevel angle equal to an upper bevel angle of the metal ring gasket.

11. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 4 wherein the threaded nut is a wing nut that includes hammer lugs to permit the threaded nut to be tightened using a hammer.

12. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 4 wherein the threaded nut is a spanner nut that is tightened using a wrench.

13. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first subcomponent is a wellhead and the second subcomponent is a drilling flange.

14. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first subcomponent is a wellhead and the second subcomponent is a casing mandrel.

15. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 4 wherein the metal ring gasket is made of steel.

16. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 15 wherein the metal ring gasket is made of plain carbon steel with a carbon content ranging from 0.14% to 0.20%.

17. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 16 wherein the metal ring gasket is made of AISI 1018 nickel-plated steel.

18. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 16 wherein the metal ring gasket is made of stainless steel for use in sour service wells.

19. **(Original)** The threaded union as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stainless steel is one of AISI 316 stainless steel and AISI 304 stainless steel.

20. **Canceled**

21. **Canceled**

22. **Canceled**

23. **Canceled**

24. **Canceled**

25. **Canceled**

26. **Canceled**

27. **Canceled**

28. **(Currently Amended)** A method of providing a fluid seal between first and second components of a threaded union, the method comprising:

seating a metal ring gasket having beveled corners and an octagonal cross-section in an annular groove in mating ~~surfaces~~ ends of the first and second subcomponents of the threaded union;

inserting a male pin of the second subcomponent into a female socket of the first subcomponent; and

securing the first and second subcomponents together using a threaded nut by tightening the threaded nut until the mating ends of the first and second components are forced together and abut, wherein a pressure energized, high-pressure, fluid-tight seal between the first and second subcomponents is achieved by compressing the metal ring gasket between the mating ~~surfaces~~ ends of the first and second subcomponents until the mating ends abut.

29. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the step of securing the second subcomponent to the first subcomponent by tightening the threaded nut comprises hammering lugs on the threaded nut.

30. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the step of securing the second subcomponent to the first subcomponent by tightening the threaded nut comprises using a spanner wrench to tighten the threaded nut.

31. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the step of using the spanner wrench comprises using a torque wrench to tighten the threaded nut to a predetermined torque.